

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3241

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2003

Mr. OSBORNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as “The Lower Republican  
5       River Basin Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.—Pursuant to rec-  
3 lamation laws, the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
4 through the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation  
5 and cooperation with the States of Nebraska, Kansas, and  
6 Colorado, may conduct a study to—

7 (1) determine the feasibility of implementing a  
8 water supply and conservation project that will—

9 (A) improve water supply reliability in the  
10 Republican River Basin between Harlan County  
11 Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas,  
12 including areas in the counties of Harlan,  
13 Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls in Nebraska  
14 and Jewel, Republic, Cloud, Washington, and  
15 Clay in Kansas (in this section referred to as  
16 the “Republican River Basin”);

17 (B) increase the capacity of water storage  
18 through modifications of existing projects or  
19 through new projects that serve areas in the  
20 Republican River Basin;

21 (C) improve water management efficiency  
22 in the Republican River Basin through con-  
23 servation and other available means and, where  
24 appropriate, evaluate integrated water resource  
25 management and supply needs in the Repub-  
26 lican River Basin; and

1           (2) consider appropriate cost-sharing options  
2           for implementation of the project.

3           (b) COST SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost  
4 of the study shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost  
5 of the study, and shall be nonreimbursable.

6           (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
7 shall undertake the study through cooperative agreements  
8 with the State of Kansas or Nebraska and other appro-  
9 priate entities determined by the Secretary.

10          (d) COMPLETION AND REPORT.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
12 graph (2), not later than 3 years after the date of  
13 the enactment of this section the Secretary of the  
14 Interior shall complete the study and transmit to the  
15 Congress a report containing the results of the  
16 study.

17           (2) EXTENSION.—If the Secretary determines  
18 that the study cannot be completed within the 3-year  
19 period beginning on the date of the enactment of  
20 this Act, the Secretary—

21           (A) shall, at the time of that determina-  
22 tion, report to the Congress on the status of the  
23 study, including an estimate of the date of com-  
24 pletion; and

1                   (B) complete the study and transmit to the  
2           Congress a report containing the results of the  
3           study by not later than that date.

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